

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
February 12, 2019

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

INVOCATION: Roger Wills- Trinity Free Methodist Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Mr. Minchuk and Mrs. Barron were absent. All other members were present.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:
None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated January 22, 2019 and February 12, 2019 Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of January 8, 2019 and January 29, 2019 Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

Mr. Pettit had no report.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Minchuk was absent. Mr. Spires referred to Mr. Laird for a report. Mr. Laird said all public improvements for Hunter's Glen North Phase 1 have been completed. Mr. Laird said he received a letter recommending acceptance and approval of all inventory along with acceptance of a Maintenance Bond. Mr. Laird asked all Town Council to accept it into the public inventory. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve with discussion and was seconded by Mr. Spann. Discussion followed.

Mr. Sventanoff asked that the Town Council table for a later discussion. Mr. Pettit made a motion to table the acceptance of the streets for Hunter's Glen and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS:

Ms. LaMarca made a motion to retain Joe Sventanoff for Town Attorney for the calendar year 2019 and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

Mrs. Pettit had no report.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Uzelac said there are cars still being left in the streets making it hard for the trucks to clean up when there is snow fall.

Mr. Hardaway said residents have 72 hours after being ticketed to remove vehicles or vehicle will be towed at owner's expense.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Ms. LaMarca had no report and referred to Ms. Olrich for a report. Ms. Olrich said she is working on the Parks 5 year Master Plan a requirement for the DNR this enables parks to apply for grants and funding additional information may be needed for approval. Ms. Olrich said the processes for the Impact Study has begun the fees collected are used for Capital Improvements for the Parks Department. Ms. Olrich said in order to start the process for the approval of the Impact Fee Study it's required that the Town Council approve the committee.

Mrs. LaMarca made a motion to approve the Impact Fee committee and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was some discussion.

Mr. Hardaway said he would like to table motion to talk more about the makeup of the committee. Mrs. LaMarca made the motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Ms. Olrich made mention of the E and L Trail with a grant received the lowest bidder is going to provide signage for the trail. Ms. Olrich said she needs approval from the Town Council for the increased amount in order to move forward with the signage project.

Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve the increase for the Signage Project and was seconded by Ms. LaMacra. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Ms. Olrich said she has a signed contract with Latin Satin Soul for the summer concert which will be held on July 26th applications have also been received for the Gospel Fest on July 27th. Ms. Olrich said signs have been order and place out on Broadway for the future home of the Community Center. Ms. Olrich said she has put out and RFQ for renovating Curtis Park and is waiting for new toys and other equipment to come back and will meet with Mr. Pettit.

Mr. Hardaway mentioned that is her absence Mrs. Barron requested an appraisal for 10 acres of land.

Ms. Olrich said about a year ago she had looked at some property out in Mrs. Barron ward located on 86th Taft. The trustee's that held the land have contacted Mrs. Olrich and want to sell.

Mr. Sventanoff said if the Town is acquiring real state for park purposes 2 appraisals are needed. Discussion followed.

Ms. LaMarca made a motion to approve the 2 appraisal and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Mrs. Uzelac referred to Mr. Lake for an update on the clean-up at Crescent Lake. Mr. Lake said he has already coordinated with agencies and have entered into an agreement with Cardinal Incorporated and they will be working on the restoration of the park. Discussion followed.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

Mr. Barron had no report.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Mrs. Uzelac had no report. Mr. Pettit announced on March 19th he will be giving the State Town of Address with the Cross Roads Regional Chambers at noon at Gamba Restaurant. Mr. Pettit said he will joined with Representative Pete Visclosky anyone wanting to attend please see Mrs. Gaza for your reservations.

Mr. Pettit confirmed Municipal Day will be held on May 14, 2019. Mr. Hardaway said the principal at MIS has been inquiring and would like to present a video to students to encourage them. Mr. Hardaway said students will be assigned to Council Members for the meeting.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Pettit had no report.

UTILITY LIAISON:

Mr. Spann had no report.

ABANDONED PROPERTIES:

President Hardaway had no report. Mr. Pettit referred to Mr. Sventanoff for a report on the Carriage House property. Mr. Sevтанoff said he has been in communication with Lake County and the property has been up for a tax sale. Some discussion followed.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 19-01:

An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, and all matters related thereto. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote

Ord. 19-03:

An Ordinance authorizing the Clerk- Treasurer of the Town of Merrillville to make certain disbursements for necessary or emergency payments prior to confirmation of claims. Mrs. Uzleac made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. Some discussion followed. The motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

Res. 19-03:

A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, authorizing the transfer of dormant funds (retroactive to 1-17-19). Mrs. Uzleac made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Res. 19-04:

A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana encumbering monies from the 2018 budget into the 2019 year.) Mrs. Uzleac made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

BZA ACTIONS:

Petitioner: Sean P. Roche
Owner: Sean P. Roche
Request: Special exception approval
Purpose: To allow a dine in restaurant
Location: 5524 Broadway
Zoning: C-2, Community Commercial
Case #: Z1E1-0119
Conditions: For this petitioner only, at this location only, for this use only parking lot repaired within 180 days of approval hours of operation are Sunday through Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Friday and Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Sheila Shine provided the Staff Report for the request. Ms. LaMarca made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Petitioner: Mike Howley, Agent Crown Castle USA, Inc.
Owner: Anderson Lake County Property
Request: Special exception approval
Purpose: To remove & replace existing monopole telecommunications tower
Location: 1550 E. 61st Avenue
Zoning: C-3, Highway Commercial
Case #: Z2E2-0119
Conditions: For this petitioner only, at this location only, for this use only.

Sheila Shine provided the Staff Report for the request. Ms. LaMarca made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was some discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Petitioner: Cedric Collins
Owner: Chen Kong Xing
Request: Special exception approval
Purpose: Dine in restaurant
Location: 6601 Broadway
Zoning: C-3, Highway Commercial
Case #: Z2E3-0119
Conditions: For this petitioner only, at this location only, for this use only hours of operations are Tuesday through Thursday 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and Sunday 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Sheila Shine provided the Staff Report for the request. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was some discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Petitioner: Ahmad Zaghloul
Owner: Northern Start Trust
Request: Special exception approval
Purpose: To allow a used car dealership
Location: 5924 Broadway
Zoning: C-2, Community Commercial
Case #: Z4E4-0119
Conditions: For this petitioner only, at this location only, for this use only Twenty Cars maximum on the property hours of operation are Monday through Saturday 10:00- 7:00 p.m. closed on Sunday.

Sheila Shine provided the Staff Report for the request. Mrs. LaMarca made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was some discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Town Hall offices closed (except for Emergency Services)
February 18, 2019 in observance of President's Day.

Plan Commission meeting, February 19, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Environmental Resource Commission meeting February 21, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

Redevelopment Commission meeting February 26, 2019 at 6:15 p.m.

Town Council meeting, February 26, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Mrs. LaMarca made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac.

Richard Hardaway, President

Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer